

# CLEVELAND WORKERS (COMMUNIST) PARTY CHALLENGES "PATRIOT" SOCIETY TO A PUBLIC DEBATE

CLEVELAND, April 20—After receiving a communication from the chamber of commerce of Cleveland that it is busy in "constructive work" and has no time for a debate on the Declaration of Independence, and having received no reply from the American Legion, the executive committee of the Workers (Communist) Party, District Six, sent the following letter to Mr. Jacob Cash (suggestive name) of the United States Patriotic Society of New York:

"Jacob Cash,  
"299 Broadway,  
"New York City.  
"Dear Sir:

"Your pamphlet 'Whither America' and a copy of your paper 'The Patriot' came into my hands this morning and therefore I am constrained to write you asking you the same question that was put to the chamber of commerce and the American Legion of this city.

## Challenges "Patriot" Society.

"Are you prepared to name a representative of your organization to take the negative in a debate on a question that certainly will interest a mass of workers of this city and country—both American and foreign-born workers?

"The Workers (Communist) Party proposes that you name a prominent man—preferably yourself or some well-known New Yorker—to defend the negative on the question:

"Resolved, that the Declaration of Independence justifies the propagation of revolution in this country."

"You will agree that large numbers of people are particularly interested in that document owing to this year being the 150th anniversary of its signing. I believe that, judging from the 'Patriot' and 'Whither America,' you will gladly argue the negative on the above question.

"Please let me hear from you. I wish to state in advance that the central executive committee of the Workers (Communist) Party will send one of its members to present the affirmative in the debate. All questions as to time and place of holding the debate—preferably in a large hall in this city—time to be allotted the speakers, etc.—can be settled at a conference.

## Correct Misstatements.

"While writing you, however, I feel impelled to correct a few errors in statements and a few in logic, as demonstrated in your publication. The membership of the Workers (Communist) Party does not yet number 208,534, as you assert, supposedly quoting from a report of the party. It is true we have a vast number of sympathizers and our press is widely read, and such inane attacks as your organization and similar associations make will only help to increase the influence of our party. What Com. Leon Trotsky said is true: 'American capitalism is laying the foundation for wars and revolutionary upheavals, which in their frightful rebound will not fail to strike the economic system

of the United States also. . . . The American oil and steel magnates . . . the multi-millionaires of New York, Chicago and San Francisco are performing—the unconsciously—their predestined revolutionary function.'

## American Illiteracy.

"Unfortunately in your diatribe against the Workers (Communist) Party and the revolutionary movement of this country, as manifested in 'Whither America,' you do not answer a single argument put forth by Trotsky. That may be your manner of educating the poor foreigner, who is not conversant with the constitution of this 'most wonderful country,' but who IS thoroly familiar with the facts of life in this country in the steel mills, slaughter houses, in the mines, textile mills, etc. It may also interest you to know that there are more than 3,000,000 illiterate native-born Americans in this country, who also probably are not familiar with the constitution. It would be well, therefore, that you look more to the welfare of the American natives than to the foreign-born.

## Segregation of Negro.

"It might also be of service to the American people as a whole if more attention and more financial support were given to education of the Negro in the south, where only a fraction of what is expended on a white child is apportioned to a black child. It would also lead to greater 'peace' in this country if, instead of segregating and discriminating against the Negro, you would devote yourself to bringing about equality for the Negro."

## Declaration of Independence.

"May I also, at this point, ask a pertinent question? Why is it that your organization does not mention the Declaration of Independence? I know that during the world war the agents of the government prevented the reading of that document in public. Certainly the Declaration of Independence is supposed to incorporate more the spirit on which the United States government is founded than any other document. Why not explain that document to the masses! I believe that the proposed debate, which should be duplicated in all large centers of the country—and in which the central executive committee of the Workers (Communist) Party is prepared to present the affirmative—will be most instructive to the people of the country.

## Regard for Constitution.

"Before closing I wish to remark that the lawmakers of this country are not particularly awe-stricken by the constitution. I noticed in the morning papers that Senator Bruce of Maryland stated in the United States senate yesterday that 'the opulent portion of the American population is going to have its wine, constitution or no constitution, statute or no statute.' Evidently the constitution is another scrap of paper, for which you intend to force particularly the foreigner to have respect. You might begin with those who are loudest in their protestation of upholding it!

"In making this offer for a debate I wish to say that the Workers (Communist) Party insists on having as the defender of the negative a man of recognized standing in the community or country, and has no intention of raising the prestige of some shyster lawyer by a public debate of this kind. I trust, therefore, that you will not fail to select a man of this standing.

"Trusting to hear from you soon, I am,

"Very truly yours,

"I. Amter,

"District Secretary."

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